

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SENDING LOW RATE DATA ON A
PACKET BASIS IN AN 8-VSB STANDARD DATA PACKET STREAM**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 There is disclosed a system and method for sending low rate data on a packet basis in an 8-VSB standard data packet stream. The system of the invention comprises an 8-VSB signal transmitter that is capable of transmitting either standard full rate data packets or low rate data packets. A low rate data packet contains less data than is normally contained in a standard data full rate data packet. 10 Each data byte in a low rate data packet contains information bearing bits and non-information bearing bits. The system is capable of assigning appropriate bit values to the non-information bearing bits in each data byte of a low rate data packet so that each low rate data packet will be properly encoded for transmission within an 8-VSB standard data packet stream. High definition television signals composed of low rate data packets possess increased resistance to noise and multipath channels.

15